



## Fiscal Year 2024 Report

1 August 2023 - 31 July 2024

# Mission



*To contribute to the conservation of birds and all wildlife through scientific research, education, and conservation policy advocacy.*



## Science

To gather information about avian communities and habitat use that will assist state, federal, and private natural resource managers in their efforts to implement conservation programs.



## Education

To provide opportunities for people of all ages to learn about species and their habitats.



## Advocacy

To advocate for sound, science-based conservation policies that benefit birds, other wildlife and environmental quality.

## Photo credits

Front cover: Cedar Waxwing - *Looking Good, If I Say So Myself* by Dan Getman

This page: Northern Harrier - *Who Are You Looking At?* by Steven Ward

Throughout: Bird photos and their descriptions are from MRBO's annual photo contest.

Greetings, MRBO friends and supporters,

We are very pleased to report to you on MRBO's activities in Fiscal Year 2024 (August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024). There have been some significant expansions to the organization within the last year due to the hard work of MRBO staff and partners. In this report you will see that we've been very active, from delivering education events to field work to advocating at the Missouri and US Capitols!

Going forward into this new year, we have two new staff members joining us to round out an exceptional team. Bird-friendly Communities Coordinator Kaylee Woelfel joined MRBO in early August, and Plastic Pollution Education Coordinator Cam Gromek will be starting in early September. The Bird-friendly Communities program is an exciting new collaboration with the Missouri Department of Conservation, US Fish & Wildlife Service, St. Louis Audubon, and others. Meanwhile, MRBO's work on plastic has been propelled momentarily forward by a partnership grant from Missouri Foundation for Health, spearheaded by Stream Teams United. Additionally, KC Community Conservation Educator Tessa Poolman has secured an EPA Environmental Education grant that will support a substantial expansion in her work in the KC metro area.

Earlier in 2024, we had a great grassland bird population monitoring survey season and also conducted surveys in priority areas of the new Eleven Point State Park for the first time. MRBO's Operations Assistant Marlee Malmberg expanded the American Kestrel nesting box program by working with several new landowners to add nest boxes this year. Volunteer surveyors continue to keep the BirdSafeKC project active as part of the overall Bird-friendly Communities effort. We routinely contribute time and effort to valuable partnerships focused on sustainable agriculture and water quality. Finally, much of our policy work persists through our collaboration with the Conservation Federation of Missouri and its affiliate organizations.

We would like to thank all of the supporters reading this Annual Report. Our bird monitoring projects and some educational programs are primarily supported by agency funds, but a significant number of educational programs and all of MRBO's advocacy work is supported by individual and local NGO donations. Thank you for believing in and supporting MRBO as we begin our (OMG!) 15th year!

Sincerely,  
Dana & Ethan Duke, Co-founders

## Thank you, Seasonal Staff and Volunteers!



MRBO FY24 full-time staff

### Seasonal Staff

Isabelle Guthrey  
Josh Smith  
Kendell Loyd  
Krista Cockrum  
Matt Longabaugh  
Tracy Lewandowski

### BirdHouse Volunteers

Kim Borgman

Donna Puleo  
Jacque Hare  
Kathy Borgman  
Ken Snow  
Mandy Dorrance  
Mel Cheney  
Shawna Bethell  
Steve Ferguson  
Tammy Gillespie

### BirdSafeKC Volunteers

Amelia McKnight  
Brett Creason  
Briana Anderson  
DeAnn Gregory  
Grace Chandler  
Janae Hlavacek  
Kathleen Pine  
Katie Boord

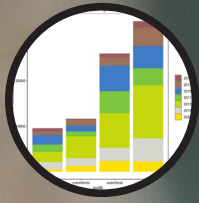
Kenny Snell  
Kim Staples  
Maria Hedrick  
Marie Hasan  
Monica Shroer  
Nicole LaPlante  
Paul & Shannon Holder  
Sherry Jackson  
Steve Rinne

### MYBC Volunteers

Kelly Smith  
Kendra Sweet  
Sara Scheil  
Tammy Maples  
Tausha AuBuchon  
Veronica Mecko







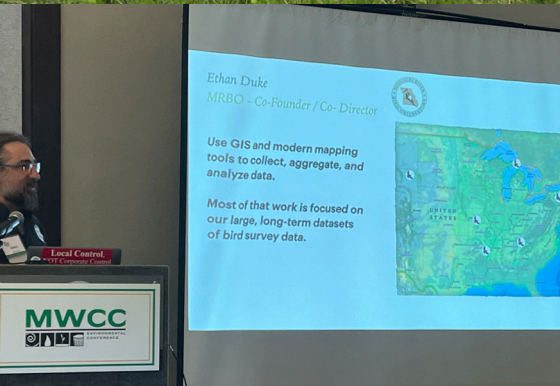
# Science



## **A Native Amongst Invasives** by JL Johnson

This photo represents conservation in Missouri because it speaks to the complexity of the work before us in managing our lands. The Ruby-Throated Hummingbird brings joy to all, not just conservationists and naturalists. Hummingbirds are “spark birds” for many, they draw folks in. This specimen is perched on, and flanked by Mullein, an introduced species from Europe with invasive Bull Thistle in the background. While many might find beauty in the juxtaposition of these three, a naturalist sees an opportunity for conversation about the challenges that introduced and invasive species pose for conservation in Missouri.





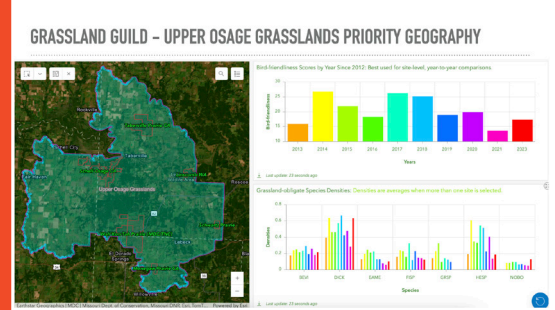
Comprehensive bird surveys conducted at:

- » 77 grassland sites, including 69 state properties, three NGO properties, and six private ranches
- » Eleven Point State Park
- » 239.75 Miles of transects covered
- » 26,500 bird detections

108 drone flights at 15 sites completed for habitat and invasive species mapping

10 presentations given on scientific methodology and results

17 American Kestrel boxes deployed for monitoring on private properties



Clockwise from top left: surveying a ranch in Arkansas; Grasshopper Sparrow by Linda Williams; 2024 grassland surveyors Tracy and Krista with Dana and Ethan; results shared at the Missouri Grasslands Summit; drone flight over Arrow Rock prairie prescribed burn; learning Missouri Bumble Bee Atlas protocol; compass plant on Missouri Prairie Foundation's Morton Prairie; sharing GIS data at the Missouri Waste Control Coalition.





# Education







176 education events delivered in 38 locations

13 schools with 287 students hosted at the Arrow Rock Nature School

Three weeks of summer day camp hosted in Arrow Rock

25 Missouri Young Birders Club members

16 webinars hosted

4,741 adults reached

3,611 youth reached, including 491 students in immersive, multi-day programs



*Facing page: Young Explorers Campers with Isabelle and a turtle.*

*This page, clockwise from top left: Campers make new friends with butterflies and frogs; Tessa ready for festival visitors in Blue Springs; Hardemann students at Arrow Rock Nature School; campers nature journaling, exploring furbearers, and nest-building; KC Urban Impact Center students in Arrow Rock.*





# Advocacy



## **Bald Eagle** **by Paul Moffett**

The Bald Eagle is a reminder that the Endangered Species Act of 1973 is now 50 years old. The act has given conservationists the tools needed to protect the Bald Eagle and many other birds. Many species have rebounded from near extinction under the umbrella of this act. Yet it is a constant battle to keep this piece of legislation and other protection laws on the books. Keep the eagles and other birds flying by reminding your politicians of the importance of this legislation.





42 meetings with elected officials and other decision-makers

Seven in-person testimonies at hearings in Jefferson City

Five written testimonies and public comments submitted

33 advocacy-related events

>500 potential advocates reached



Clockwise from top left:  
 Clean Water Now event in Springfield, MO;  
 plastic pollution workshop at National Wildlife Federation conference in Washington DC;  
 at the US Capitol with CFM friends;  
 plastic brand audit with Missouri River Relief;  
 The Resilient Activist workshop co-hosted by MRBO;  
 Dana and Ethan at CFM Affiliate Luncheon with presentation.



# Thank you, FY24 Donors and Grantors!

Our great appreciation goes out to all of the following individuals and organizations who provided financial support during the period of 31 July 2023 to 1 August 2024.

Abby Miller	Bob and Pat Perry	Cindy Imhoff and Family	Elizabeth Perrin	Jennifer Pederson	Kim and Donnie Nichols
Alpha Benedetti	Bob Dearth and Family	Daniel Curran	Elizabeth Wilson	Jenny McDonald	Kim and Earl Kraus
Amy McGough	Bob Estes	Dave and Janice Erickson	Emily Gustafson	Jerry and Linda Giger	Kitty Peer
Andrea Goyette	Boulevard Brewing Company	David and Teresa Pearce	Eric and Joanna Reuter	Jim Gast and Donna Brunet	Klaire and Caleb Howerton
Andrew Kinslow	BPS & Cabela's Outdoor Fund	David Galat	Eric Seaman	Jim Low	Kyna Iman
Ann Earley and Bob Siemer	Brad Harriman	Dean's Beans	Ernest and Judy Smith	John Amoroso	Lara Landrum
Ann Morris	Brian Flowers	Deborah Scholes	Gene Gardner and Liz Cook	John and Amy Corrigan	Layton Register
Ann Travers	Brian Nelson	Debra Foster	Georgana Cochran	John Besser	Lea Langdon
Anna Ewers	Brooke Widmar	Dee Dokken	Grant and Linda Ripper	Joyce Lee Taylor	Leah Houghtaling Woodworking
Ashlen Busick	Burroughs Audubon Society of Greater KC	Diane Benedetti	Greg Leonard	Judy Ragan	Lee Elliott
Aulgur Livestock	Carin Reust	Dina Nichols	Gretchen D Roberts	Karen and Terry Stair	Lesli Moylan
Austin Cosner	Carmen Brandt	Dina van der Zalm	Hannah Henze	Karen Mathis	Leslie and Nick Huston
Badger's Hideaway	Carol Ann Wegener	Donna and John Huston	Hannah McFarland	Karen McGillis	Linda Headrick-Setzer
Baird Farm	Carol Davit and Mike Leahy	Donna Puleo	Harley and Sarah Winfrey	Karen Meyer	Linda Williams
Betty Evans	Carolyn Flynn	Dorene Benedetti	J. Huston Tavern	Karen Miller	Lisa Berger and Charley Burwick
Bill and Carol Edson	Charlotte Larrick	Douglas and Barb Doughty	James Berchek	Kate Corwin	Lori Hagglund
Bill and Jan Mees	Cherry Street Cellar	Dr. Susan Flader	Jamie Blair	Kathleen Anderson	Lottie Bushmann
Bill and Jennifer True	Cheryl Y. Marcum	Edge Wade	Jamie Coe	Kathy Borgman	Lucy Fletcher
Bill and Mary Ellen Kirgan	Chicago Ornithological Society	Edward Smith	Janice Schweikert	Kathy Cary	Lynette Fowler
Bill Rowe	Christopher Tracy	Elaine Trout	Jaron Black	Kathy Digges	Mandy Dorrance and Bruce Satterlee
Birds and Beans	Cindy Fry	Elizabeth Fuemmeler	Jason and Lucy Swanson	Katie Garrison	Marc and Diane Prigmore
Blaine and Stephanie McBurney		Elizabeth Garrett	Jennifer Davies	Katie Marsh	Margaret Conroy
				Katie Shannon	Marge Lumpe
				Kazoku	Marie and Yusuf Hasan
				Kenneth Booth	Mark and Lisa Barnes



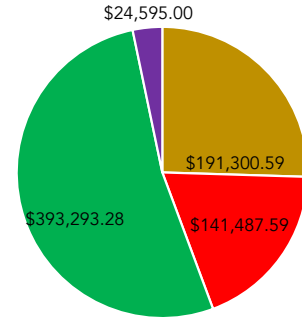
# Fiscal Year 2024 Financials

Mark and Shannon Gregory  
 Mark Belwood  
 Mark Zurbrick  
 Marlee Malmberg  
 Marlyn Whitney  
 Mary Stubbs  
 Mary Wight-Carter and  
 Bart Carter  
 Matthew Higdon  
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 Missouri Rural Crisis Center  
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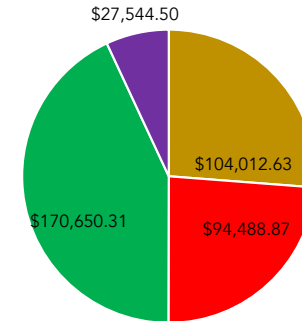
Paul and Kim Ratcliffe  
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 Tessa Poolman  
 Timmie Wiant  
 Timothy Gibbons  
 Tony Weatherford and  
 Deb Meyers  
 Tracy Lewandowski  
 Valerie Vreeland and  
 Charlie Yazak  
 Vernon and Judy Elsberry  
 Veronica Mecko  
 Wander'n Acres  
 Warren and Denise Loveland  
 Wayne Morton  
 Whitney and Day Kerr  
 William Henderson  
 William Olson  
 Wood & Huston Bank



Revenue



Expenses

■ Unrestricted ■ Science  
 ■ Education ■ Advocacy

With special thanks  
 to MDC for the  
 agency's long-term  
 support of MRBO  
 programs.





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